

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING KATHRYN VICCHI-
ULLO OF BUSHNELL, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathryn Ann Vicchiullo of Bushnell, Florida. A lifelong resident of Florida, Kathryn is a shining example of a woman who has returned to the community where she was raised to help it grow and prosper.

Following her graduation from South Sumter High School in 10th grade, Kathryn enrolled at Stetson University. At the age of 16, she was the youngest student ever enrolled at Stetson. Kathryn went on to receive her bachelor's degree with a triple major in English, Political Science and Russian.

After her graduation, Kathryn enrolled at Barry Law School, where she recently completed her first year of studies. On a hiatus from her legal studies, Kathryn has returned to South Sumter High School, where she is teaching English.

In addition to her stellar academic career, Kathryn spent much of her teenage years and vacations during college working for her parents' family restaurant, Mr. Goodburger. When not teaching at South Sumter, Kathryn has studied to become a certified financial planner, and worked to put herself through law school. I am also proud to note that this weekend, Kathryn will marry Shawn Seufert in Howey-In-The-Hills, Florida and start the next stage of her life.

Mr. Speaker, it is women like Kathryn who will help Florida's 5th Congressional District prosper and grow into the future. Her success and hard work should serve as an inspiration to young men and women in Bushnell and throughout Florida.

HONORING THE LIFE OF "SKITCH"
HENDERSON

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great friend and a gentleman who gave the gift of music freely, enthusiastically, and successfully throughout his life: my friend Lyle Russell Cedric "Skitch" Henderson. Skitch passed away on November 1 at his home in New Milford at 87.

Skitch was born in England, and moved to the United States in the 1930's. In the early years, he eked out a living as pianist, playing vaudeville and movie music in Minnesota and Montana road houses. His big break came in 1937 when he filled in for an ailing accompanist for an MGM promotional tour featuring Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. When the

tour wrapped up in Chicago, he used the original pianist's ticket and went to Hollywood. There he met Bob Hope and played piano for Bob on the Pepsodent Show. He became friends with Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby and lent them his musical expertise. He continued on to win a Grammy award as a conductor. His many remarkable accomplishments reflect his diverse talents and character.

During World War II, Skitch like many others put his life on hold for the greater cause. He flew both the Royal Air Force and, after becoming an American citizen, the United States Army Air Corps. This fostered Skitch's love for airplanes and flying, which became a lifelong passion.

Skitch may be best known from his days as the bandleader for Steve Allen's "Tonight Show," which brought Skitch into the nation's living rooms every night. Skitch not only served as bandleader for Allen, but for Jack Paar and Johnny Carson as well, reflecting his rich personality and breathe of talents.

Not resting on his laurels, Skitch founded the New York Pops in 1983. He wanted to share his passion for music by bringing the more accessible symphonic pops fare to a broader audience. He led free New York Pops concerts in the city's parks each summer, so that people of all backgrounds could experience the majesty of hearing a world-class orchestra perform live. The New York Pops is now the largest independent symphonic pops orchestra in the United States.

Beyond his career as a performer, Skitch helped thousands of New York City's school children gain new possibilities in life through music. He personally visited classrooms throughout the city to encourage children in a love of music and learning. Recently, he was appointed to be a distinguished Professor of Music at Western Connecticut State University and only a few weeks ago, with that twinkle in his eye, excitedly shared with me his vision of this great opportunity to develop the talents of local students and mold them into a first rate orchestra.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Skitch's wife Ruth. The couple married on February 7, 1958 and since then, they have not only been partners in marriage, but Ruth has been a partner in Skitch's many endeavors and is currently President of the New York Pops.

Skitch Henderson brought music, beauty, and hope to millions. It is my privilege to rise to honor him for enriching the lives of people of all ages over many decades throughout America. Few leave such a magnificent legacy. A life well lived, my friend!

TRIBUTE TO JOHN E. TAYLOR

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend John E.

Taylor for his dedicated service to the National Archives. Mr. Taylor has worked for the National Archives since 1946. Throughout those years, Mr. Taylor has been acclaimed by researchers worldwide for his extraordinary grasp of history and ability to locate pertinent documents.

Mr. Taylor specializes in World War II documents and records of the Office of Strategic Services. Mr. Taylor's colleagues praise him as one of the most knowledgeable and generous archivists, known for his sound advice and resourceful assistance to authors, scholars and historians.

Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Taylor has been honored by groups all over the world. In 1997 Mr. Taylor was honored by the Japanese Embassy for helping Japanese historians and journalists for the previous forty years. In 2003 the American Jewish Historical Society awarded Mr. Taylor its first "Distinguished Archivist Award" for his lifetime of work as an archivist. He has also received numerous honors from the National Archives itself. The National Archives has a special John E. Taylor Collection of books on espionage and intelligence which largely consists of works with which Mr. Taylor provided critical assistance.

Mr. Taylor is truly an invaluable resource. His service at the National Archives is legendary, and he will be greatly missed as he enters retirement. I applaud Mr. Taylor for his outstanding achievements and dedication to his work and wish him an enjoyable and fulfilling retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF REVEREND HOLLICE T. WIL-
LIAMS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to note the passing of a man whose legacy will forever be remembered. In 1970, Reverend Hollice T. Williams became the first black city councilman in Pensacola, a city in my district in Northwest Florida.

For more than twelve years, Rev. Williams served on the city council, re-elected six times to the council. However, his service to Northwest Florida extended far beyond elected office. For nearly 50 years, Rev. Williams worked at the local YMCA, eventually becoming executive director in 1969. Through his different positions at the YMCA, he became known as a man with a genuine sense of caring who fostered that sense into those with whom he came into contact.

The Reverend Hollice Williams was also known in areas of the community as he continuously addressed civic issues for the black community as well as the faith-based community. His love for God was readily apparent in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

his conduct for individuals and groups. He put in long hours for youth groups throughout the area, sang in the choir at Emanuel Baptist Church, and was the pastor at Mount Lily Baptist Church for nearly ten years at the end of his working career. While suffering a stroke two years ago may have slowed the Reverend's activities, the lessons he had instilled and the inspiration he had brought to those around him continued to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the family of Reverend Williams. They, along with their community, have suffered a great loss. Reverend Hollice T. Williams served as a model for so many, and I am confident that many will remember him fondly and model their actions in life on what he showed them through his life.

EMSLEY TAYLOR JACKSON MAKES HER MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Morgan Jackson and his wife Shawn on the birth of their first child, Emsley Taylor Jackson. Emsley was born on Tuesday, October 25, 2005 and weighed 10 pounds. Faye joins me in wishing Morgan and Shawn great happiness during this very special time in their lives.

As a father of three, I know the immeasurable pride and rewarding challenges that children bring into your life. Their innocence keeps you young-at-heart. Through their inquiring minds and wide-eyed wonder, they will teach you just as you teach them, and show you the world in a fresh, new way. A little miracle, a new baby holds all the potential of what human beings can achieve.

I welcome young Emsley into the world and wish Morgan and Shawn all the best as they begin guiding her through life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ANIMAL ENTERPRISE TERRORISM ACT OF 2005

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act of 2005. This legislation would provide federal authorities with the necessary tools to help prevent and better investigate and prosecute eco-terror cases.

Between January of 1990 and June of 2004, extremist movements such as the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), and the Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC) committed more than 1,100 acts of terrorism causing more than \$120 million in damages. The FBI considers these extremists groups among its most serious domestic threats.

Animal rights extremists advance their cause through "direct action" which includes death threats, vandalism, animal releases, and

bombings. Their actions are calculated to aggressively intimidate and harass those identified as targets. Traditional targets include research and biomedical laboratories, fur farms, and restaurants. These extremists have also turned to targeting companies that do business or have a financial interest in an animal enterprise.

In my own state of Wisconsin, mink farmers and researchers at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center have experienced their own fair share of intimidation, harassment, and vandalism at the hands of animal rights extremists.

Current federal law is inadequate to address the threats posed by violent acts committed by these animal rights extremists. They have recognized the limits and ambiguities in our current statutes, such as the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, and have tailored their campaign to exploit them.

Mr. Speaker, the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act of 2005 would address gaps in the law that keep authorities from using it in the most effective manner possible. The bill provides for penalties for intentional economic disruption or damage and for intentionally causing bodily harm or placing a person in reasonable fear of death or bodily harm.

It also specifically addresses the "tertiary targeting" tactic employed by these extremists by prohibiting intentional damage of property belonging to a person or organization with ties to an animal enterprise.

Enactment of this legislation will enhance the ability of law enforcement and the Justice Department to protect law-abiding American citizens from violence and the threat of violence posed by animal rights extremists.

FREEDOM FOR BLAS GIRALDO REYES RODRIGUEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Blas Giraldo Reyes Rodríguez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Reyes Rodríguez is an opposition activist and independent librarian in totalitarian Cuba. His life is dedicated to the proposition that the men and women of Cuba must be free: free to learn, free to worship, free to elect their leaders, free to enjoy their inalienable human rights. Independent librarians in Cuba, such as the one operated by Mr. Reyes Rodríguez, provide the indispensable service of circulating truth at a time when the tyrannical regime provides only propaganda. These heroic librarians often circulate the great works of anti-totalitarian literature, including the important writings of Václav Havel and Dr. Martin Luther King. Literature is a great danger to totalitarian regimes: books often provide the truth that tyrants seek to hide.

Unfortunately, In March 2003, as part of Castro's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Reyes Rodríguez was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Amnesty International reports that he is suffering from serious medical concerns in the gulag. According to the U.S. Department of

State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003:

In early August, officers of the Ministry of the Interior threatened to arrest the wife of prisoner Blas Giraldo Reyes Rodríguez if she continued to receive activists who visited her to express sympathy for the jailing of her husband. Police told Isel de las Mercedes Acosta Obregon that they would try her for violating the Law to Protect National Independence and the Economy (Law 88) (see Section 2.a.) if she did not cease "counterrevolutionary activities."

Mr. Reyes Rodríguez has also been named an honorary member of Sydney PEN, an organization of writers devoted to emphasizing the role of literature in the development of mutual understanding and world culture; to fighting for freedom of expression; and to acting as a powerful voice on behalf of writers harassed, imprisoned and sometimes killed for their views.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. Reyes Rodríguez is languishing in an infernal gulag because he believes in freedom, truth, democracy, and human rights. His family is being constantly threatened because of these "dangerous" beliefs. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Blas Giraldo Reyes Rodríguez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 28, 2005, I had an out of town engagement and missed rollcall votes. I ask that my absence be excused, and that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show that had I been present: For rollcall no. 556, I would have voted "aye."

Again and again, Iranian government's policies have shown utter disrespect for international law, oppressed the Iranian people, and facilitated international terrorism.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's comments on October 26, 2005 in support of annihilating Israel reaffirm the necessity of strong American and United Nations policies towards Iran. Knowing of Iran's desire to develop nuclear capabilities and intentions to use them against Israel, we must, in the strongest terms possible, condemn President Ahmadinejad's statements and continue working towards a freer and more stable Middle East.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND ENGINEERING

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of George Mason University's School of Information Technology and Engineering.

2005 is a year of great significance for the School of Information Technology and Engineering. On October 28, 2005, George Mason

University invited alumni and friends to join in celebrating the school's many accomplishments and its exciting plans for the future. This event also served as the commencement of the school's first-ever fund-raising campaign, the "2010 Campaign." Through this campaign, George Mason aims to raise more than \$20 million in private funds by June 2010. This funding will enable the School of Information Technology and Engineering to continue its path of national prominence and leadership and to create new programs in the area of information technology in the biosciences including bio-informatics, bio-technology, and bio-engineering.

Led by Dean Lloyd Griffiths, George Mason's School of Information Technology and Engineering is the first engineering school in the United States to focus on information technology rather than the traditional engineering science, and is also the first engineering school to offer a doctoral program in information technology. It was also one of the first engineering schools in the country to be named as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and the White House Complex. Additional research areas of expertise within the School of Information Technology and Engineering include genetic algorithms, robotics, learning agents, air transportation, infrastructure protection, and data visualization.

Indeed, while many other colleges are experiencing a decrease in engineering enrollments, student enrollment at George Mason's School of Information Technology and Engineering continues to grow. To compliment the increase in enrollment, George Mason University has committed to raising the quality of the program to an even greater degree by making changes such as hiring a substantial number of new faculty members, leveraging research and donor funding, and enhancing its participation in high school mentorship programs, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and congratulating George Mason University's School of Information Technology and Engineering on 20 years of excellence. I look forward to applauding its continued growth and success for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDITH ROBLES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Edith Rocio Robles, a dedicated and intelligent woman whom I was fortunate to have served as my Communications Director from September 2001 through August 2005. During her tenure in my office I greatly valued Edith's strong communication skills.

Edith joined my office in 2001 as my Press Secretary. Edith quickly assumed her role as Press Secretary. Edith's strong public relations skills and knowledge of the press, particularly Spanish media, made her a valuable member of my staff and gained her the admiration of her colleagues. In 2002, I promoted Edith to the role of Communications Director in recognition of her hard work and invaluable help to my office.

As a grass-roots oriented Member of Congress, I take great pride in my office's extensive efforts to communicate with my constituents in the 32nd Congressional District about how the Federal Government can be of assistance to them and about the work I'm doing in Congress to improve their lives. As Communications Director, Edith played a critical role in this effort, strengthening my office's working relationships with members of the press and local community activists and overseeing my office's mail outreach program.

While I am sad to see Edith leave, I am confident that the future will bring her great success. I wish Edith and her family good health and wishes. I join my staff in Washington, DC, El Monte and East Los Angeles offices in wishing Edith the best of luck in all of her future endeavors. Buena suerte Edith!

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD E. SMALLEY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of our nation's greatest minds. Last week, the scientific world and the nanotechnology community in particular lost a giant. Dr. Richard Smalley, the Nobel Prize-winning nanotechnology researcher, died after a long battle with cancer at age 62. Professor Smalley shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1996 for discovering the C₆₀ molecule, a soccer ball-shaped form of carbon called buckminsterfullerene.

A professor in the physics and chemistry departments at Rice University, he was the founding director of the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology at Rice and was director of the Carbon Nanotechnology Laboratory.

It is hard to overstate the role Dr. Smalley played in founding and fostering the development of nanotechnology, one of the most important and exciting new areas of scientific inquiry to arise in the past quarter century. The discovery of fullerenes is one of the earliest and most influential discoveries in the development of nanotechnology. Dr. James Heath, one of his former graduate students on the buckyball discovery who has become a leading nanotechnology researcher himself, described Dr. Smalley as "a Moses for the field. Without a Moses, there's no trip to the promised land."

Dr. Smalley was a key player in the development of the United States' National Nanotechnology Initiative, launched in 2000. His testimony on Capitol Hill, where he spoke about the promise of nanotechnology for treating cancer and other diseases even as he battled the disease himself, made a deep impression on policymakers.

In recent years, Dr. Smalley was an ardent supporter of commercial development of nanotechnology, helping to found Carbon Nanotechnologies Inc. to make sure his discoveries made it to the marketplace where they could benefit society. He was also a scientific adviser to biotech startup C Sixty, which is investigating the use of fullerenes for pharmaceutical applications.

In 2002, Dr. Smalley embarked upon a crusade to promote the use of nanotechnology to

solve what he described as the No. 1 problem facing humanity in the 21st century—the need for cheap, clean energy. Smalley crisscrossed the country, gave dozens of keynote addresses, testified before Congress and met with countless government, academic and industrial leaders. Some of his friends and colleagues have said that they thought he fought so hard against his disease so that he could one day see nanotechnology deliver the societal benefits in clean energy that he so passionately believed in.

Citizens of the world were fortunate to have Rick Smalley, and will certainly benefit from his discoveries. We owe it to him to continue his efforts to use nanotechnology to solve the need for cheap, clean energy. As ranking member of the Science Committee's Energy Subcommittee, I intend to do what I can to honor Dr. Smalley's memory and continue his good work.

IN HONOR OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN VIETNAMESE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese, as leaders and members of the Foundation unite with the Cleveland community in celebration of the grand opening of the Sai Gon Plaza Community Center.

The Community Center, located at the intersection of West 54th and Detroit Avenue in Cleveland in Ohio's 10th Congressional District, was made possible through the determination, conviction and energy of its founder, Ms. Gia Hoa Ryan, who also serves as the executive director of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese.

The Sai Gon Plaza Community Center promises to exist as a vital source of Vietnamese culture and Asian culture, wherein a strong foundation of cultural preservation and intercultural exchange is established. This Center, reflecting the rich cultural diversity of Cleveland, will unite citizens of Asian heritage and will serve as a cultural gathering place for people from all international backgrounds. Also included as part of the Center will be a dedication to the people and neighborhoods surrounding the Center. The Center will also showcase a museum and exhibition center, which will be home to the Asian-American Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ms. Gia Hoa Ryan, Executive Director of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. Ms. Ryan's tireless work and focused vision, supported by the work and efforts of countless members of Cleveland's Vietnamese community and many others, have created a Community Center where bridges of culture will transcend language, time and distance, preserving and promoting the ancient cultural and historical traditions of Vietnamese culture—a culture that spirals back throughout the centuries, connecting the old world to the new, spanning oceans and borders—from Vietnam to America.

HONORING THE SUSSEX COUNTY
VETERANS MEMORIAL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring attention and pay tribute to Sussex County, New Jersey, for their efforts to recognize the heroic feats of our region. In the historic downtown square of Newton, New Jersey, a 34-inch-diameter cast bell is engraved with the words "Sussex County Veterans Memorial 2005." This memorial is long overdue, but truly represents the liberty, freedom and democracy our brave men and women in the armed forces have fought for. What better time to present this memorial than on the occasion when our Nation pays our respects to our defenders of liberty on Veterans Day.

Defending our country by serving in the armed forces is one of the most commendable achievements and deserves our utmost gratitude and respect. America's armed forces have time and again fought to protect our homeland and bring freedom and prosperity to the entire world.

We must never forget the sacrifices of these men and women and every effort must be made to ensure that our veterans and all they fought for are never forgotten. The Sussex County Veterans Memorial will remind all Americans of the monumental accomplishments our soldiers have made throughout history. They will be honored, admired and remembered forever.

It is with extreme reverence that I offer my sincerest gratitude to the veterans of Sussex County, New Jersey.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. BLANCHE
SPARROW RIVERS IN CELEBRATION
OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my most senior constituents, Mrs. Blanche Sparrow Rivers, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on November 15, 2005.

Mrs. Rivers, is the third of five children born to Henry Clay and Hattie Brown Sparrow. Since the New Bern school system only offered 2 years of high school, Mrs. Rivers' father sent her to Durham, North Carolina, to the National Religious Training School where she matriculated to Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 1927, Mrs. Rivers received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Shaw University. She went on to teach English in the New Bern public school system for 24 years until her retirement in 1951. Mr. Speaker, I am certain that Mrs. Rivers can take credit for shaping many young minds and is responsible for directing the paths of many of my constituents who have grown into productive upstanding citizens.

In June 1932, Blanche Sparrow married Mr. Bishop Singleton Rivers, and in July 1935, Barbara Lucille Rivers was born. Mrs. Rivers is a charter member of the Theta Beta Omega

Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is also a faithful member of the St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, which her father helped build. She continues to serve as a Captain for the Annual Fundraising Team.

Mrs. Rivers has five grandchildren, Michael, Lisa, Leander, Gary, and Marc, and five great-grandchildren, Morgan, Kristen, Marissa, Kaci and Kori—listed in order of the most senior. She is a beloved member of the community and church. Mrs. Rivers still resides in New Bern with her daughter, Barbara.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Congressional Colleagues and the more than 660,000 constituents whom I represent, I extend my very best wishes to Mrs. Blanche Sparrow Rivers as she celebrates this tremendous milestone. I ask my Colleagues to rise and join me in wishing Mrs. Blanche Sparrow Rivers a Happy 100th Birthday.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4128) to protect private property rights:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of The Private Property Rights Protection Act, H.R. 4128. I have heard from a number of my constituents in New Jersey. They have come to my town hall meetings, sent me emails and called me on the phone, to express their concern about the potential for abuse of the power of eminent domain. I have heard their concerns and I share their concerns. That is why I support this legislation to make clear that local authorities may not use the power of eminent domain solely to increase the tax revenue for the town.

H.R. 4128 is a bipartisan bill that responds to the Supreme Court ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London*. Most troubling about the decision was that the Court upheld the right of New London to take private property and transfer it to another private individual for the purpose of increasing the tax revenue of the city. I am glad we are acting today to prevent this from becoming a regular practice.

The rights of property owners were so important to our nation's founders that they enshrined property rights in our Constitution. They knew that towns and municipalities would need to look after the greater public good and occasionally acquire property with just compensation to the owners in order to use that property for public good. The power of eminent domain has enabled us to make many advances over the years. It was used to create the national railroad system, the interstate highway system, and make telephone, electric, sewer, and water lines available to all our communities. Eminent domain, when used properly, is a critical power of government that has benefited people in New Jersey and across America.

When used improperly, however, eminent domain is a fearsome power. Transfer of a person's property—particularly their home—to

another private interest solely on the basis of tax revenue is an unwise and dangerous authority. With this bill, Congress is rightly acting to protect private property rights and ensure that property owners will not have their house taken from them by an over zealous town council seeking to increase its tax coffers.

Mr. Chairman, while eminent domain is used across America for beneficial and important reasons that support the public good, we need to ensure that towns do not overstep their powers. H.R. 4128 helps define the boundary lines.

RECOGNIZING SOLANO COUNTY AS
ONE OF THE 100 BEST COMMUNITIES
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Solano County for its selection as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise, the Alliance for Youth.

I am proud that this honor has been bestowed upon our community, but I am by no means surprised. Everyday, we in Solano County are visibly reminded of the commitment of the government and people of Solano County to the health and safety of our children. I want to congratulate the many dedicated parties who have worked so diligently to make Solano County one of the top communities in our country for young people.

Solano County is poised to become the first county in California with health care coverage for 100% of its children. Solano County has been an excellent steward of its share of Tobacco Master Settlement agreement funds, ensuring that it is spent on effective health services.

Solano County's annual Children's Report Card is an effective tool for government and non-profit organizations to continually reassess the needs of our youth. Clearly, Solano County is getting it right when it comes to kids.

Organizations such as the Children's Network, First 5 Solano, the Child Care Planning Council, the Family Resource Centers, the Solano Coalition for Better Health, the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, as well as countless others, deserve credit for this distinction.

Again, I commend all of the people and organizations that continue to work tirelessly to make Solano County one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People.

AUTHORIZING THE REMAINS OF
ROSA PARKS TO LIE IN HONOR
IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize

and honor the life and legacy of civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks, who passed away recently at the age of 92.

Ms. Parks was a daughter, a wife, a mother, a seamstress, who, like all of us, was trying to make a good life for herself and her family. On December 1, 1955, Ms. Parks refused to relinquish her seat to a white man in a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and this simple and courageous action changed the course of American history. Her strength and willingness to take a stand for her rights and those of others sparked the beginning of the Montgomery bus boycott and paved the way for the historic 1964 Civil Rights Act banning racial discrimination in public facilities. Ms. Parks' act of courage and bravery inspired the modern civil rights movement that went on to revolutionize our country.

Her steadfast faith in justice and equality, and the power of an individual to initiate change, has served as inspiration and encouragement for equal rights movements the world over. Millions of people with disabilities, and those who are discriminated against around the world, have looked to Ms. Parks' leadership in their claims for equality in the face of injustice. My constituents, and indeed this entire country, are grateful for her strength and courage. We as a country have been made better by the movement Ms. Parks ignited.

Mr. Speaker, in remembering her greatness, her dignity, and her legacy, Members of this House also recently made an historic vote. When this House voted to allow Rosa Parks to lay in honor in the Capitol Rotunda, it marked one of the few occasions a citizen who did not hold public office, and the first time a woman, has been recognized in this way. With that vote, we commemorated more than the great civil rights movement that her act initiated. In bestowing this honor upon Ms. Parks, we recognized that one person, one individual citizen, can have an impact, and can change lives.

Rosa Parks' legacy is one that will lead us in continuing the fight for social justice and the struggle for equality for all people. We must all remain committed to fighting the inequities that remain in our country and to championing fundamental rights for all whether they are voting rights, or a commitment to ending poverty in America. This is the true legacy of Rosa Parks which will live for years and decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND
JAMES H. BILLINGTON OF SAN
MATEO, CALIFORNIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the Reverend James H. Billington. For the past 6 years, Rev. Billington has been the Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in San Mateo, California, in my Congressional district, and one of the largest and most important parishes in the State of California. After filling his spiritual calling on the West Coast, Fr. Billington and his family have decided to return to their roots on the East Coast. Though this will be a loss both to his congregation and to our community, I wish Fr.

Billington well in his future endeavors, and I know he will be a tremendous asset to whatever church family or organization he joins next.

Fr. Billington had a remarkably successful tenure at St. Matthew's. From a spiritual perspective, he led a passionate effort to strengthen Sunday School programs for church youth, increased the number and variety of worship services, and was a constant source of love and compassion to his elderly parishioners. He expanded ecumenical outreach by allowing a local Hispanic Pentecostal congregation to use St. Matthew's for their own services. Through his work with the Mills Health Center, he integrated healing services into the church calendar for cancer patients and opened the church during business hours for hospital staff.

Mr. Speaker, Fr. Billington was also very successful in matters of church administration. Despite a substantial increase in unemployment among his parishioners from Silicon Valley, annual giving increased by 37 percent. Through his solid leadership and strict fiscal policies, the church was able to completely retire a long-standing debt that Fr. Billington had inherited when he assumed leadership of the parish. In addition, the historic physical structure of the church was improved through major restorations to the stained glass windows and the organ, and the St. Matthew's Day School was restored to its earlier prominence. To the delight of his parishioners, Fr. Billington restored a previously condemned, church-owned historic landmark building into a community center for contemplative outreach.

An inspired church leader, Fr. Billington is also a gifted intellectual and dedicated humanitarian. His path to the priesthood began in earnest with his enrollment in the Episcopal Divinity School from which he graduated in 1996 with a Master of Divinity degree. Prior to this, he received a BA and an MBA from Harvard University. Before entering the priesthood, Fr. Billington earned several accolades for humanitarian work. He was awarded the Lyndhurst Prize in 1985—an annual award given to only five Americans for outstanding humanitarian contributions. From 1984 to 1986, Fr. Billington served as Director of the Appalachia Habitat for Humanity. In recognition of his extraordinary leadership, his chapter was named a model chapter by the founder, Millard Fuller.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a great pleasure for me to work with Fr. Billington on various community events and to become acquainted on a personal level with his family. His lovely wife Julia is currently a respected physician at Mills Health Center. She previously served as an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Julia's dedication to the San Mateo community mirrors that of her husband's. The two of them have worked together to take on many important projects, including a mission to provide free medical care to those in need. The Billingtons are the happy and proud parents of four boys: James, Adam, Jonathan and Joshua.

Fr. Billington has been an integral part of interfaith efforts that have greatly benefited my congressional district and beyond. He has been aptly described as a true community leader, an outstanding rector, and an all-around humanitarian. After 6 years of tireless service to St. Matthews and the community, Fr. Billington will be deeply missed. His deep

commitment and dedication to the Episcopal Church earned him the highest esteem and trust of all whose lives he touched. His spiritual leadership has brought joy, peace and comfort to his parishioners. His eloquent sermons were an inspiration to all. By engaging his wry sense of humor, he has been able to simplify complex religious issues for his parishioners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Fr. Billington for his contributions and dedication to public service. I wish him and his family many more years of richly deserved good health and happiness.

HONORING THE 250th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 250th anniversary of the Union United Church of Christ of Neffs, Pennsylvania and to pay tribute to the many contributions its congregation has made to the cultural fabric of the Lehigh Valley.

Established in 1755 by immigrant farmers and craftsmen, the first Union United Church of Christ was constructed on a 100-acre plot of land donated by the Schlosser family of Neffs. As the predominant language in the area, all services at Union Church were conducted in German until 1920 when English began to be incorporated.

Shortly after the church's formation in 1755, America went to war with Britain to gain its independence. Reflecting its role as an important element of the Lehigh Valley's cultural history, several Revolutionary War soldiers from the area are buried in Union Church's old cemetery, including Colonel Stephen Balliet, who commanded American battalions at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown.

In 1797, a new church was built to replace the original log structure that the congregation had been using since 1755. This building, known fondly as "Scrub Oak Church" due to the large number of oak trees in the surrounding hills, later housed the church's Sunday School, which was organized in 1846.

The construction of the congregation's current home, a striking red brick church built in the colonial style of 18th Century England, was completed in 1871 at a price of just over \$35,000.00. A tribute to its wonderful design and preservation, the Union Church is one of the most recognizable and beautiful structures in Lehigh County.

To commemorate their 250th Anniversary, members of Union Church have conducted a year-long celebration that has included a musical program entitled "250 Christmases at Neffs", a series of German heritage events, and an organ concert. While the congregation spent much of the last year honoring their past and celebrating their present, it was their involvement in building a family's future that exemplifies the positive impact this church has always had on life in the Lehigh Valley.

In September 2004, members of Union Church began working with Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley to renovate the home of a mother and her four sons living in

nearby Allentown, Pennsylvania. During a dedication ceremony on October 16, 2005, the amazing volunteers from Union Church welcomed this family to their newly renovated home and presented them with a check for the first month's mortgage, a new lawnmower, and numerous other housewarming gifts provided by the congregation.

Tomorrow, November 5, 2005, members of the Union Church and the local community will gather for a banquet at the Emerald Fire Company to mark the conclusion of their year-long Anniversary celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the anniversary of the Union United Church of Christ of Neffs, Pennsylvania.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO
WHITE SOX ON WINNING THE 2005
WORLD SERIES

SPEECH OF

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2005 World Champion Chicago White Sox. Chicagoans—particularly those on the South Side—have been waiting 88 years for this historic win. Today, I am proud to join my colleagues in the Illinois delegation, our constituents across the State and White Sox fans across the country to celebrate the team's long-awaited victory.

Led by manager Ozzie Guillen, the 2005 White Sox finished the regular season with 99 wins and 63 losses—the best record in the American League. After the regular season,

the White Sox went on to sweep last year's champions the Boston Red Sox and then marched past the Los Angeles Angels.

Facing off against the Houston Astros in the World Series, it was immediately evident that this could be our year. Throughout the series, we all sat on the edge of our seats witnessing great baseball between two formidable opponents, ultimately resulting in the White Sox sweeping the series and finishing the playoffs 11 and 1.

This year's team proved that hard work, dedication, and the desire to win can prevail against all odds. I want to again congratulate the players and management as well as the fans of the Chicago White Sox. The 2005 World Championship may have been long in the waiting, but don't expect us to wait another 88 years for the next one.

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE
COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution and in opposition to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations.

I recognize the need to streamline the military in order to save tax dollars, increase military effectiveness, and protect our troops that are serving across the world. I agree that we should close bases and realign functions that have outlived their usefulness. However, I support this resolution because the recommendations made by the BRAC Commis-

sion for Naval Air Station Pt. Mugu in my district do not serve these goals.

The BRAC Commission recommended moving specialized jobs on a target range from an oceanfront location at Naval Air Station Point Mugu in Ventura, CA to China Lake Naval Weapons Station, which is 150 miles inland in the high desert. This would necessitate the moving of flights and technicians back toward the ocean each time they are needed. Relocation of these flights and the technicians will increase response times to the range, reduce on-range time, and increase operating costs.

Furthermore, I've been told by a number of my constituents, the civilian scientists and technicians at Naval Air Station Pt. Mugu, that they do not wish to move from the ocean to the high desert. This would result in a tremendous loss of intellectual capital that would add to the cost and timetable of relocation as new scientists and technicians would need to be found, trained, and given the proper security reviews. Not only does this not appear to save money and increase efficiency, I am concerned that it will negatively impact military readiness.

This recommendation is forecasted to save a mere \$6 million over twenty years. Given the fact that the figures provided by the Department of Defense have been consistently inaccurate throughout this process, I question whether it will be even this much. Furthermore, the negligible savings from these recommendations do not take into account the additional non-military costs incurred by communities due to unemployment benefits and other social welfare programs necessary to help those who lose jobs because of the base closures. This could end up costing the Federal Government more money rather than it saves.